

THE MONROE JOURNAL

VOL. 19.

MONROE, N. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1912.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

Let's Talk It Over.

From Marshville Township.
I see in your last issue that you favor the bond issue under chapter 526, laws of 1909. Also that the commissioners have ordered an election. As you offer space in The Journal for a discussion of the subject, pro and con, I wish I was able to accept, for surely I am not only in favor of good roads, but I am in favor of better roads.
But the question with me is, can we in our township hope to have better roads than we now have with the amount of money provided for in said chapter? Can we do away with our free labor and pay the same amount of taxes, as some one says, and have better roads? I see in our Journal that the amount of road tax paid in Marshville township last year was \$547.60. Pray tell me and all our citizens what that, or even twice that amount, will do with our river, creek, and branch hills. Will it grade them to less than three per cent and straighten them agreeable to said act? Can we ever hope to have any finer roads in our township?
But say, do I understand said chapter to make demand on our little bit of road tax to buy out the Monroe township chain gang's tools, engines, etc., and do we have to help pay a civil engineer and all? Unless we get along better than we think we will we will not need any civil engineer soon, nor do we know how long it will be before we will be able to hire the chain gang to do even one month's work.
Now, in conclusion, I would say that I do not like the present system of working roads and would like a change, but it is so much trouble to change, let's try to get a better system when we do change.
Will you please publish Chapter 526, laws of 1909, so the people can read it for themselves?
With many thanks, and best wishes to all concerned, I beg to remain,
Yours truly,
M. C. Austin.

(The Journal publishes with pleasure Mr. Austin's letter. Like most of us, Mr. Austin is in favor of better roads. The question with him, as has been many times said by The Journal, is one of how to get them. We also comply with Mr. Austin's request to publish the statute in full. Mr. Austin will see by studying it, that the idea is to get the bond money and at once build a system of trunk lines over the county, and use the small tax money coming in year by year to pay the interest on the bonds and create the sinking fund to pay the money back. We believe the McNeely bill (this one) is the only hope, and the certain hope, of getting good roads. If the people will vote for it, we believe we can have the roads in two years, as Gaston county did, under the same law. Of course they will be built by contract at once, like railroads are built, different contractors working at all points at the same time. The object of having an engineer is to lay off the roads and to make scientific tests to find the best, cheapest and most permanent material to build with. The chain gang will then be used in keeping up the main roads and the side lines. We believe this is a broad gauged, well laid plan for the benefit of the whole county, and not for any section.—The Journal.)

The Statute in Brief.
Feeling that some of the voters of Union county might not be thoroughly familiar with the law under which the coming election for good roads is to be held, I desire to give a brief explanation of the same, which I hope you will be so kind as to publish.
Section One provides for authorizing the county commissioners to issue not more than \$200,000 worth of bonds of the county for road building. The commissioners, even if the election carries, could in their discretion refuse to issue more than \$100,000 or any less amount, but could never under the act issue more than \$200,000. The bonds are to bear not over 5 per cent, and may be sold at 3 or 4 per cent interest, and to be sold for not less than 100 cents on the dollar. The bonds are to be paid at the end of thirty years.
Section Two provides that the bonds and coupons shall be numbered and signed by the chairman of the Commissioners and by the county treasurer.
Section Three provides for a perfect record of the bonds to be kept.
Section Four provides that the road tax in the county shall never be more than 25 cents on the hundred dollars and 75 cents on the poll. It may be less.
Section Five provides that the moneys arising from the road tax shall be kept from other taxes.
Section Six provides for a sinking fund with which to pay the bonds when they come due at the end of thirty years. For a long time people opposed issuing bonds because it placed a heavy debt on the next generation. This objection is now cured by providing a sinking fund. The sinking fund is provided by setting aside a small amount of money each year, lending and re-lending same so as to compound the interest, and thus accumulating enough money by the time the bonds become due to pay them. By calculating you will find that \$2,500 set aside each year for thirty years will be about \$200,000.00.
Section Eight provides how the moneys relieved for the bonds shall be spent.

Section nine provides for the laying out and straightening of the roads of the county.
Section Ten provides for the safety of the bonds.
Section Eleven provides that no township shall be slighted in the use of the bond money spent on road building, but shall each have its proper share.
Section Twelve provides for submitting the question of the issuing of bonds to the vote of the people.
Section Thirteen provides that the old road laws shall remain in force until the people shall say by vote that they want this new road law.
Section Fourteen provides that if the election fails to carry the first time, the question may be submitted to the people any year hereafter.
Section Fifteen provides that if the election carries the old road tax now paid shall never be levied anymore, the change gang shall belong to the entire county, and the six days free labor on the roads shall no longer be required.
Section Sixteen provides that if the election carries the change gang shall hereafter be under the charge of the county commissioners, and for the use of the whole county; and that the property belonging to the chain gang now shall remain the property of Monroe township.
Always anxious to see all informed and the majority rule, I am, with every hope that the election may carry, free labor be abolished, and good roads be established,
Yours very truly,
NEY MCNEELY.

NEY MCNEELY.

Suppose We Had Done It Then!
The first effort for good roads, so far as I know, was started in Sandy Ridge township in 1891, when a petition was gotten up for Union county to adopt the Mecklenburg road law. Said petition was signed by the largest tax payers in the township and others, including H. M. Houston, C. Austin, W. H. Philmer, J. M. Fairley, A. F. Stevens, J. P. Horn, E. A. Armfield.
It was a strong petition. The men who signed it represented more property than any men in the county of the same number at that time.
It was sent to the Legislature, which was then in session, and passed the House, and was before the Senate at its night session March 6th, 1891, and the daily that chronicled the next morning's news stated it passed the Senate, but the Journal of the Senate did not so state it.
Thus we see that twenty one year ago Union county had men of property who were willing and anxious to be taxed for good roads, and we also see that if that law had been adopted, and the proper amendments made as they were needed, we to-day would have much better roads than we do.
One step forward: We think the county commissioners deserve honor for giving the people the chance to vote for a bond issue, and hope they will benefit themselves and honor their county by successfully carrying it through.
Good roads will come sooner or later, and why not as soon as possible? There is a great agitation for good roads that will not down. Other counties and States are voting for bonds and spending money for roads. Will Union lag behind and finally be driven to do its duty? We hope not.
The inland Farmer says that during the year 1911 fifteen Southern States spent approximately \$50,000,000 in road building, and adds good roads benefit every man, woman and child within the zone of their influence.
They help any community financially, educationally and religiously.
C. V. T.

Marriage at Waxhaw.
The marriage of a popular young couple of Waxhaw takes place this week. The parties are Mr. Henry Stephenson and Miss Lizzie Norwood. Mr. Stephenson is a business man of Waxhaw, noble and generous, and Miss Norwood is one of the most popular young ladies of the town, the daughter of Capt. W. W. Norwood. The marriage will take place Thursday evening, Feb. 22, at 6:30 o'clock, at the home of the bride, Mr. Stephenson is the son of the late Mr. W. J. Stephenson of the Marvin community and is connected with the store of Rodman & Brown.

John Ross Reprimed by Governor.
Raleigh Dispatch, 16th.
John Ross was not electrocuted today for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. John Dixon near Shelby, Dec. 17, as scheduled. He has been reprimed by Gov. Kitchin to April 12th in the hope that he will be induced to make a full and clear statement of the murder, that will lead to the punishment of others who officials believe were necessarily accessory to the brutal crime.
Preparations for the electrocution to take place at 10 o'clock were going forward at 9 o'clock when the reprieve was served on Warden Sales. Those who talked with Ross before the news of the reprieve was brought to him, says he persists in his statement that he met Frank Gladden in the road and that Gladden asked him to help kill the Dixons, and that he did kill John Dixon with an axe and that Gladden went to the house and killed Mrs. Dixon, leaving the little child, fourteen months old, beside her.
Gladden was tried at Shelby and acquitted a few weeks ago. There were here today for the expected electrocution Sheriff Wilkins and Mr. Kline, father of Mrs. Dixon.

MR. BROWN HERE.

Agent of Farmers' Union and Other Organizations Talks on Diversification and Acreage Reduction.

Mr. J. A. Brown of Chadburn, who has been requested by the State Farmers' Union, the Agricultural Department and similar organization to take charge of the movement for cotton acreage reduction and diversification, called on The Journal last Friday, and talked very interestingly of the situation. He said that the committee could not, in the time left, undertake to organize all the counties of the State, and would confine the work principally to those counties that most needed it. He spoke very highly of the citizenship of this county and thinks that the farmers here are already in position to meet the demands of the situation. Mr. Brown is one of the most progressive and wide-awake men in the State, standing for all good works. He is both a farmer and a merchant and takes a broad view of subjects. He was pleased to know that this county is concerned with road improvement, and remarked that every county needed a system of trunk lines of good roads, and it could then turn its attention to working up and keeping in shape the neighborhood roads leading into them, and that this would be the cheapest investment that any county ever made. Among other things Mr. Brown said:

The Agricultural Department, the executive committee of the State Farmers' Union and the Farmers' Alliance requested me to inaugurate a campaign to encourage diversification and the reduction of the cotton acreage.

"Reduction of acreage and diversification are synonymous terms. The average cotton farmer must reduce his cotton acreage in order to diversify his crops. Diversification means the reduction of acreage, as the land must be cultivated in other remunerative crops."

"How do you find sentiment on the subject?" Mr. Brown was asked.

"Unanimously in favor of it. Since leaving home I have interviewed several hundred people including farmers, merchants, newspaper men, lawyers, doctors, school teachers and traveling men, and without a single exception, they favor the plan. All are interested, you know."

"How do you find conditions?"

"In sections where cotton has been cultivated extensively, conditions are bad. Taking the State as a whole, conditions are fairly good. In eastern Carolina where weather conditions have been unfavorable for cotton growing for three years previous to the last year, the farmers have diversified their crops and practiced economical methods, and are in good financial condition."

"We are prone to forget what was accomplished, a few years ago, by systematic agitation along these lines. The entire South was financially prostrated. The business people and the farmers were demoralized when the cotton convention was called in New Orleans a few years ago. The leading cotton bears of New York flooded the convention with circulars ridiculing its action. The press and almost every agency of the South including ministers of the gospel became apostles of reduction of cotton acreage and diversification of crops, with the result that cotton advanced \$20 a bale in a few months, and has never fallen below 12 since, until the last bumper crop went on the market. Agitation is everything. The press has something to say about politics every day, every week, in every issue of the dailies, weeklies and monthlies as a result, politics is discussed daily. I wish I could induce every paper in North Carolina to print in bold type across the front page of every issue for the next few weeks, the word, 'Diversity,' and I do not think that I would go too far if I should ask the ministers to preach a sermon on diversification. The cause of the church, home and foreign missions suffer correspondingly with the low price of cotton."

"What effect will the recent advance in the price of cotton have on production?"

"I fear our cotton farmers will be misled. The foreign spinner has not forgotten our organization of a few years ago, and is anticipating his future wants. He has been a buyer on a declining and advancing market through the entire season. If statistics are correct, the foreign spinners have bought as much American cotton up to the present as they bought all last year, or within a few hundred thousand bales of that amount. With the foreign spinner holding a year's supply, what hope has the Southern cotton-grower for a good price for another large crop, especially for what might be termed distressed cotton? The foreign buyer is expecting a reduction in acreage and production and it will be suicidal on our part to disappoint them."

"Do I believe bankers and merchants can help in this movement? Yes, they are important factors. The merchant is often seriously at fault in encouraging tenants to plant and cultivate large acreage in cotton in order to pay advances made, but under present conditions it is becoming an uncertain asset."

Mr. Poe to Wed.

The engagement of Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer and a widely known magazine writer and Miss Alice Aycock, eldest daughter of Ex-Governor Charles B. Aycock, has been announced. The marriage will take place May 29th.

Death of Mrs. C. H. Richardson.

Mrs. Celestia Alice Richardson, wife of Mr. Chas. H. Richardson, alderman and mayor pro-tem of the city of Monroe, died at her home on Main street about two o'clock Saturday, after having suffered for more than a year from cancer of the throat. Since last May Mrs. Richardson's condition had been considered hopeless and since that time she has spent many weeks in hospitals in Richmond, Va., and Baltimore, seeking relief from the pain she so patiently endured. A week ago it was realized that the end was near and death came to her as a welcome relief.

Funeral services were held at the Baptist church Sunday by Rev. D. M. Austin, and the pastor, Mr. Austin had been pastor of the church when Mrs. Richardson joined, had baptized her, and officiated at her marriage, and she left the request that he conduct the funeral. He paid a very high testimonial to her life and character.

The pall bearers were: Messrs S. O. Blair, A. W. Biggers, G. M. Beasley, E. C. Williams, John C. Sikes and R. A. Morrow acting, and H. B. Clark, B. C. Ashcraft, J. H. Benton, R. B. Redwine, T. C. Lee and H. E. Copple honorary.

Mrs. Richardson was born in Monroe forty-two years ago and was happily married to Mr. C. H. Richardson January 4, 1888. He and one son, Mr. James Richardson, survive. Mrs. Richardson's maiden name was Lockhart, and her mother, Mrs. Martha Lockhart, and three brothers, Messrs. Charles, W. E. and J. J. Lockhart of Monroe, also survive.

Energetic and possessed of a remarkably bright mind, Mrs. Richardson took a great interest in all things pertaining to the welfare of the community. She was a devoted member of the Baptist church here and was a leader in its missionary work, particularly in the Ladies' Aid Society and Sunday School department. She was a member of the local chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy and was active in the interest of the Confederate veterans, always looking after their pleasure and comfort when opportunity was afforded.

Her long suffering was marked by determination, first to get well if possible, and when that appeared to be impossible, to accept the decree with fortitude, resignation and bravery. To those who knew her through it all it seemed to be a remarkable example of christian faith and patience.

Ash Wednesday and Lent.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, 21st inst., being known in the christian year as Ash Wednesday, suitable services with sermon and celebration of the holy communion may be expected in St. Paul's Episcopal church at 11 o'clock a.m. This is the first day of the historical season of Lent, in view of which the following card has been issued to the members of St. Paul's parish by the rector:

Ash Wednesday Easter Day
Feb. 21st. April 7th.

LENT
A. D. 1912.
"Once more the solemn season calls
A holy feast to keep."

Services
Every Sunday.
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday at 11 o'clock a. m.
Every Wednesday evening at 7:30.
Every Friday afternoon at 4:00.

Holy Communion.
First Sundays at 7:30 a. m.
Third Sundays at 11 o'clock a. m.
Other services as announced.
Lent is the historic regular revival season when we seek through prayer, fasting and heart searching to improve our spiritual condition.
Please be more regular in church attendance.
Please abstain from the article of diet you like best.
Please avoid all ordinary worldly amusements.
Please search out your besetting sin and seek to overcome it.
Your friend and rector,
W. L. MELLICHAMPE.

A Good Deed.

Correspondence of The Journal.
A very commendable deed of goodness and charity was done by our friend Mr. J. W. Laney of Pageland, S. C., who is bearing all the expense of Mr. S. J. Outen, also of Pageland, whose right eye was successfully operated on for cataract ten days ago by Dr. Wakefield of Charlotte, assisted by Dr. Stevens. Mr. Laney is paying the doctors and Mr. Outen's board and all expenses. These parties are not of kin, nor even close acquaintances. Mr. Laney took pity on a poor blind man and is doing all he can to have his sight restored.

Miss Krauss Operated On.

Miss Jewell Krauss was taken to the hospital at Chester Friday night accompanied by her physician, Dr. S. H. Ezell, where an operation was performed for appendicitis. For two weeks Miss Krauss had been ill with the grip; and when appendicitis developed, it was thought best to send her at once to the hospital. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Krauss, and one of the most popular young ladies of Waxhaw. Since the operation her condition has been satisfactory.

H. W. Brooks, State Examiner

of accounts of Alabama, says that good roads is the most important question before the American people and that the farmers of the country yearly lose \$2,000,000,000 on bad roads.

WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT.

Then Judge Gary Forgot His Predictions of a French Revolution—What the Children's Bill Hopes to Do—The Wail of a Stand-Patter.

Washington Correspondence.
Judge Gary, head of the Steel Trust, attended a banquet in New York. The food was good; the lights were bright; the silver shimmered; the wine sparkled; the cigars added a final completeness to the happiness of all present. When it came Judge Gary's turn to speak, his mind was saturated with benevolence, and his thoughts turned to the welfare of the republic, and the sufferings of workmen. Listen to him:

"Things are being said nowadays that are closely akin to the things that were said just prior to the French Revolution. . . . Unless the great corporations, capitalists, and men of large wealth and power take a leading part in the amelioration of conditions, there will be changes made later by the mob."

The newspapers next day told the story of the banquet, and of Judge Gary's speech, and the same newspapers chronicled the testimony of witnesses before the Stanley committee. These witnesses told how the Steel Trust forced men to work 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, for wages which compelled them to live like swine—a condition which Judge Gary could ameliorate with a few strokes of the pen.

The banquet hall is dark. The diners are gone. The tables are stripped of their linen and vases. And somewhere in that deserted room, shrunken so small that the servants failed to see it when they swept out the crumbs, is Judge Gary's beautiful altruism.

Roosevelt and the Tariff.

Just once in his life Theodore Roosevelt expressed an opinion on the tariff. That is he almost expressed an opinion. In one of his messages he wrote this sentence:

"In a later message I shall discuss the tariff."

A preliminary draft of this message fell into the hands of Senators Aldrich and Lodge and Speaker Cannon. Immediately they rushed to the White House. Presto! When the message finally was submitted to Congress, it contained no reference to the tariff.

Aside from that, no living man can point to a written or spoken opinion that Mr. Roosevelt ever expressed on the tariff question.

A Stand-Patter's Wail.

The Senate was discussing a bill for the establishment of a Children's Bureau in the Department of Commerce and Labor. Senator Borah, author of the bill, had explained how the huge corporations were exploiting little children, crushing them with hard toil, while they were yet of tender years. He explained that the bill contemplated no interference with the proper relation of parents toward their own children, and that its purpose was merely to provide for the collection of statistics and information on which the separate states and municipalities could base a solution of the child-welfare problem.

"In the great cities," concluded Senator Borah, "little children fester and swell and starve and steal and die by the thousands. This bill is designed to aid them."

Then up rose Senator Heyburn, stand-patter, and for two hours the Senate listened to his complaints about the "unconstitutionality" of the bill. His final argument was that Abraham Lincoln was a poor boy.

Some Bad Facts.

The Republican campaign fund in 1908 amounted to \$1,665,518.27. The Democratic fund was \$620,644.27. The Republicans had more than a million in excess of the Democrats.

The number who contributed to the Republican fund was 12,230, and to the Democratic fund, 74,000. In other words, the number of contributors to the Democratic fund six times greater, and their contributions amounted to a million dollars less. The contributors of the Republican funds, as a rule, were interested in legislation, the money coming from such men as J. Pierpont Morgan, Charles P. Taft, Andrew Carnegie, Charles M. Schaub, John Jacob Astor and the heads of the various woolen mills who desired the passage of the Payne-Aldrich law, together with donations from the Wall street banks, railroad magnates, and individuals representing the tariff trusts.

The contributors to the Democratic fund were not personally interested in legislation.

The contributions to the Republican fund ranged from \$110,000 downward, while contributions to the Democratic fund ranged from \$5,000 downward.

"Elevating the Workingman." President McKinley, in one of his speeches, said: "It must be conceded that the protective system has dignified and elevated labor. We observe its triumphs on every hand."

The industries most benefited by the high protective policy are steel, wool and cotton manufacturing, and we observe the methods by which these trusts have "dignified and elevated" labor. We observe one result of this "elevating" process in the Lawrence, Mass., strike, where whole regiments, with drawn bayonets, are required to keep order among men, women and children who are trying to retain their present wages of \$6, \$7 and \$8 a week, in which a cut had been threatened. The "elevating" process is to be seen, in the flower of its beauty

and triumph, in the steel trust's mills, where men are forced to labor 72 hours a week for the same wages paid laborers for 56 hours work in free trade England. Still another evidence of the "elevating" effect of protection on labor is seen in the employment by the trusts of thousands of children.

A Big Difference.

"Millions for defence; not one cent for tribute."

The American Woolen Mills company, the woolen trust, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in magazine advertising, the purpose of which was to "educate" the people into seeing the justice of Schedule "K", and the way it was making sheep raisers rich by paying a big price for wool, and the way it was selling good cloth to the American people for less than they really ought to pay.

And then, when the workers in its mills objected to a cut in the \$6 a week wages they were getting, the woolen company employed an army of guards to protect its mills. When the state shortened the hours of labor, of course wages had to come down. Of course that patriotic company wouldn't pay 22 cents per week to its operatives in order that they might have shorter hours and still get \$6 a week.

Boys Receive Certificates.

Those three boys who last year made more than seventy-five bushels of corn to the acre and who were members of the boys' corn club contest have received handsome engraved certificates. The certificates are signed by Gov. W. W. Kitchin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. Y. Joyner, Commissioner of Agriculture, W. A. Graham, County Superintendent of Public Instruction, R. N. Nisbet and Special Agent of the United States Department of Agriculture, I. O. Schaub. The certificates bear the seal of the State of North Carolina and the boys that have received them are proud of their preference and will keep them among their treasures. They are sixteen by twenty inches in size and are very pretty in the design. The following named Union county boys have received the certificates: Hoyle Martin of Lanes Creek township, who made 105 9-10 bushels to the acre; Inness Huntley of Lanes Creek township, who made 80 5-10 bushels to the acre, and Lee Ashcraft of Marshville township who made 78 7-10 bushels to the acre.

A Good Farmer.

Mr. S. A. Lathan is one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers in Union county. He lives in Buford township, and knows how to make money on any grade of land, besides planting cotton. He has just finished threshing his crop of peas for 1911. He made 105 bushels and practically the entire amount was brought forth from poor land, or what is generally called "stubble land," and were planted in July after the principal work had been accomplished on the farm. On one-half an acre Mr. Lathan made eighteen and a half bushels of white table peas, and of these he sold twelve bushels at \$3 a bushel and six bushels at \$2.50 a bushel. Besides the crop of peas (threshed), Mr. Lathan left many bushels in the fields upon which he fattened his hogs and stock. He has a four-hundred acre farm and has recently spent \$500 for woven wire fencing with which he has fenced eight fields of farm land and besides this he has put in one hundred acres under fence for a pasture, which he has filled with good stock.

He is a hard worker and knows how to proceed and is making a great success from the manner of his excellent management.—Monroe correspondent Charlotte Observer.

Kitchin Challenges Simmons.

Before the Raleigh Kitchin club last Friday night Governor Kitchin made the opening speech of his campaign for the Senate. He went into the record of Mr. Simmons in the Senate and took the position that the latter had time and again deserted his party and its principles. "Of forty-three rail calls," said the governor, "Senator Simmons voted nineteen times against the Democratic majority. His friends can't defend his record in the Senate, and Senator Simmons himself cannot afford it. Either the party is wrong and he is right, or the party is right and he is wrong."

In conclusion, he said: "I have charged that Senator Simmons' record is not in accord with the principles and policies of the Democratic party, for which I stand, and by which I will abide. There are issues upon which we differ—such as the principles of ocean mail subsidy, reciprocity, free lumber, free coal, and other tariff questions. I believe that the influence of his record is most injurious to the people and their party, and has done much to Republicanize the public thought of North Carolina. I know that he can in the Senate reply to this charges, and send his speeches throughout the State without one cent of postage. I cannot meet him in the Senate to discuss these issues. He can meet me before the people, and if he thinks I have misstated his position upon any question, or that I do him wrong in saying he is out of harmony with the aggressive Democracy of the age, and has broken its pledge and violated its principles, I am ready to meet him in joint discussion before the people at such times and places as he may name, defend Democracy from his blows and undertake to establish my contentions."